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SPECIAL SECTION

Cuba: The Consequences

Only 90 days after it took power, the Kennedy Administration suffered a setback as grave as any that befell President Eisenhower during his entire eight years in office.

For the United States, the debacle on the southern shore of Cuba last week may well turn out to be as costly in world prestige as the U-2 incident or the anti-American riots in Japan last summer. Without question, the American-aided attempt to overthrow Castro has shocked the world and neutral alike. Seizing the opportunity, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev called the expedition "a crime which has shocked the whole world."

At best, the U.S. appears before the world as a meddler; at worst, as a nation which pretends to virtue, yet seems to have committed open aggression against any country.

It was a serious blow, but it might turn out to be, in the long view of history, a minor gain. For the ignominious ending of the expedition in Cuba had probably awakened the nation to some of the facts of international life. In the future, Administration ventures in this realm will be based not on high hopes and dreamy expectations but on solid reality.

The complete failure of intelligence about Cuba may also lead the President

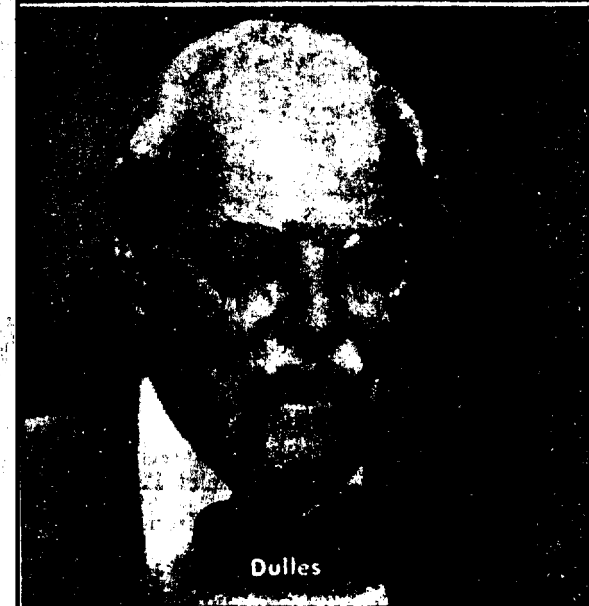
to put through major reforms in the evaluation of intelligence reports.

Still another long-term gain for the U.S. may come in its conduct of paramilitary operations and international political action. The Communists, as the world knows, are past masters at guerrilla warfare and at capturing a country without firing a shot. In Mr. Kennedy's view, neither the Central Intelligence Agency nor the armed services are now capable of directing operations involving nationals of other countries. The appointment of Gen. Maxwell Taylor to review the whole field is an outward sign that the President expects to find ways to establish and support democratic leaders—and encourage followers—in the world's underdeveloped nations.

Not least among the consequences of Cuba was a sudden surge of national unity, and Mr. Kennedy moved swiftly to solidify that unity. He sent Vice President Lyndon Johnson to Missouri to fill in for former President Truman, and himself discussed the situation with former Vice President Richard Nixon, New York's Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, and Sen. Barry Goldwater. Then he flew off to Camp David to meet former President Eisenhower. After 80 minutes together, Mr. Eisenhower came out and said: "I'm



The President



Dulles



Burke



Lemnitzer



Rusk



Bissell